

§ 3001.17

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§ 3001.17 Notice of proceeding.

(a) *When issued.* The Commission shall issue a notice of a proceeding to be determined on the record with an opportunity for any interested person to request a hearing whenever:

(1) The Postal Service files a formal request that the Commission submit a recommended decision on changes in postal rates or fees or establishing or changing the mail classification schedule;

(2) The Commission proposes on its own initiative to issue a recommended decision on changes in the mail classification schedule;

(3) The Postal Service files a request with the Commission to issue an advisory opinion on a proposed change in the nature of postal services which will generally affect service on a nationwide or substantially nationwide basis;

(4) The Commission in the exercise of its discretion determines that an opportunity for hearing should be provided with regard to a complaint filed pursuant to subpart E of this part; or

(5) The Commission in the exercise of its discretion determines to institute any other proceeding under the Act.

(b) *Appellate proceedings under 39 U.S.C. 404(b).* The Commission shall issue a notice of proceeding to be determined on a record compiled by the Postal Service whenever:

(1) An appeal of a determination of the Postal Service to close or consolidate a post office is taken to the Postal Rate Commission pursuant to subpart H of this part; or

(2) An application to suspend the effective date of a determination of the Postal Service to close or consolidate a post office pending appeal to the Postal Rate Commission is made pursuant to subpart H of this part.

(c) *Publication and service of notice.* Each notice of proceeding shall be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER and served on the Postal Service, the complainant in a complaint proceeding, and the appellant in the appeal of a Postal Service determination to close or consolidate a post office.

(d) *Contents of notice.* The notice of a proceeding shall include the following:

(1) The general nature of the proceeding involved in terms of categories

listed in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section;

(2) A reference to the legal authority under which the proceeding is to be conducted;

(3) A concise description of proposals for changes in rates or fees, proposals for the establishment of or changes in the mail classification schedule, proposals for changes in the nature of postal services; in the case of a complaint, an identification of the complainant and a concise description of the subject matter of the complaint or, in the case of an appeal, an identification of the appellant and a summarization of the Postal Service determination to close or consolidate under review;

(4) The date by which notices of intervention and requests for hearing must be filed; and

(5) Such other information as the Commission may desire to include.

[36 FR 396, Jan. 12, 1971, as amended at 42 FR 10992, Feb. 25, 1977; 42 FR 13826, Mar. 14, 1977; 58 FR 38976, July 21, 1993; 65 FR 6540, Feb. 10, 2000]

§ 3001.18 Nature of proceedings.

(a) *Proceedings to be set for hearing.* Except as otherwise provided in these rules, in any case noticed for a proceeding to be determined on the record pursuant to § 3001.17(a), the Commission may hold a public hearing if a hearing is requested by any party to the proceeding or if the Commission in the exercise of its discretion determines that a hearing is in the public interest. The Commission may give notice of its determination that a hearing shall be held in its original notice of the proceeding or in a subsequent notice issued pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section and § 3001.19.

(b) *Procedure in hearing cases.* In proceedings which are to be set for hearing, the Commission shall issue a notice of hearing or prehearing conference pursuant to § 3001.19. After the completion of the hearing, the Commission or the presiding officer shall receive such briefs and hear such oral argument as may be ordered by the Commission or the presiding officer pursuant to §§ 3001.34 to 3001.37, and the Commission shall then issue a recommended decision, advisory opinion,